

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T AMMAN 1104

EXDIS

EYES ONLY FOR SECRETARY AND PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, JO, US
SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE TEAM, JADAT

REF: AMMAN 1073

1. AS INDICATED RETEL, AIR DEFENSE TEAM BRIEFED JORDAN ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GENERAL BIN SHAKER AT NOON FEBRUARY 13. BRIEFING COVERED THREAT TO JORDAN, TARGET PRIORITIES, AN OVERVIEW OF PRESENT CAPABILITIES, AN OUTLINE OF AREAS OF POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT, A DISCUSSION OF ARTILLERY/ MISSILE SYSTEMS AND PLANNING FACTORS, AIR DEFENSE INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT AND PLANNING FACTORS, AND RADAR, COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS.

2. BRIEF HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN REVIEWED BY AMBASSADOR AND DATT AND SUGGESTIONS MADE FOR IMPROVEMENT. BRIEF INDICATED THAT TEAM NOW RETURNING TO PREPARE A REPORT FOR DOD ON TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE, JORDAN WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH A REPORT ON TEAM ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE OPTIONS FOR VARIOUS COSTS, AVAILABILITY OF WEAPONS AND FACTORS OF EFFECTIVENESS (PK). JORDANIANS WERE LEFT WITH FIRM IMPRESSION THAT A MIX OF SYSTEMS --MISSILES, GUNS AND AIRCRAFT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. TEAM ALSO REPORTED THAT PRESENT SYSTEMS IN JORDAN ARE INEFFECTIVE; CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS IMPROVEMENTS

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CAN BE MADE IMMEDIATELY; TEAM AND JAF ARE IN GENERAL

(ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY SPECIFIC AGREEMENT ON TARGETS TO BE DEFENDED); WE WILL PUT STRESS ON PROVIDING OPTIONS FOR LOWER COST, LOWER SOPHISTICATION RANGES FOR WEAPONS; AND AT LEAST ONE STEP JORDANIANS NOW TAKING IN LOCATING AN ADVANCED EW RADAR MAY MAKE SUCH INCOMPATIBLE WITH INTRODUCTION OF HAWK SYSTEM, SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO BUY HAWK.

3. JORDANIANS ASKED INDIRECTLY ABOUT TRADE OFFS BETWEEN MISSILES AND AIRCRAFT FOR AIR DEFENSE. THEY WERE TOLD THAT WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF SUCH SYSTEMS ARE PRESENT, MARGINAL FUNDS MIGHT BE PUT INTO ONE OR ANOTHER DEPENDING UPON A NUMBER OF FACTORS; BUT WITH JORDAN STARTING FROM GROUND UP BOTH TYPES OF SYSTEMS SHOULD BE PRESENT. PRESENT AIRCRAFT (F-104, F-5E) HAD SOME AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY, BUT MISSILES GAVE AN ALL WEATHER CAPABILITY NOT PRESENT IN AIRCRAFT. JORDANIANS STRESSED PAUCITY OF FUNDS, DESIRE TO ACQUIRE SOME WEAPONS SOON TO IMPROVE MORALE IN GROUND FORCES (US TEAM SHOWED ITS AWARENESS OF IMPORTANCE OF THIS FACTOR), AND FEELING (ON PART OF CHIEF OF STAFF) THAT JORDAN ALWAYS SOMEHOW GOT STUCK WITH VERY LONG DELIVERY TIMES FOR US EQUIPMENT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE JORDANIANS MAY HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED THAT TEAM COULD NOT BE MORE CONCRETE ABOUT THE SOLUTION OR SOLUTIONS TO JORDAN'S AIR DEFENSE PROBLEMS, THEY DID NOT SHOW IT. BRIEFING WAS WELL ATTENDED BY PRACTICALLY ALL SENIOR HEADQUARTERS OFFICERS, AND APPARENTLY WELL RECEIVED. TEAM HAS MADE CLEAR THAT A REPORT FROM IT WILL BE FORTHCOMING TO JORDANIANS LISTING ILLUSTRATIVE OPTIONS, PRICES, STRATEGIES FOR DEFENSE AND TARGET PRIORITIES. WE ARE OFF TO A SLOW, BUT GOOD START ON THIS SCORE, BUT IT WILL REQUIRE SOME FOLLOW THROUGH FROM WASHINGTON TO AMMAN TO KEEP THE QUESTIONS ON TRACK AND OF BENEFIT TO OUR RELATIONS IN BOTH THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY AREA. WE SUGGEST THAT IF SUBJECT COMES UP IN AQABA MEETINGS, SECRETARY SAY THAT HE UNDERSTANDS TEAM HAS BRIEFED CHIEF OF STAFF ON ITS REVIEW OF PROBLEM IN JORDAN, THAT IT WILL PREPARE ITS REPORT EXPEDITIOUSLY, AND THAT JORDAN WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF TEAM'S WORK SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED IN TANDEM IN MAKING DECISIONS AIMED AT A RESOLUTION OF THE AIR DEFENSE PROBLEMS

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OF JORDAN. IT WOULD ALSO BE MOST HELPFUL IF SECRETARY WERE TO REPEAT THAT THIS EFFORT CONTINUES TO HAVE HIS FULL SUPPORT.

PICKERING

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